

EUI Workshop on Political Behaviour in Central and Eastern Europe

25 – 26 June 2026

Venue: European University Institute - Badia Fiesolana - Via dei
Roccellini 9, I-50014 San Domenico di Fiesole

Organised by Professor Filip Kostelka

The EUI Widening Europe Programme initiative, backed by contributions from the European Union and EUI Contracting States, is designed to strengthen internationalisation, competitiveness, and quality in research in Widening countries, and thus foster a more cohesive European Higher Education and Research area.

Programme

Day 1 Thursday 25 June

09.00 – 09:20 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**
Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

09.20 – 09:30 **Welcome by Prof. Filip Kostelka**
Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

09.30 – 11.00 **Panel 1: Trade shocks, industrial legacies, and political radicalization**
Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Andras Tetenyi**, Corvinus University of Budapest, *“The Visegrád buffer: trade exposure and populism in CEE”*
- **Philipp Kerler**, University of Zürich, *“The Right Angle: Urban Structures, Social Ties, and Voting Behaviour”*
- **Chair:** Kamil Marcinkiewicz, University of Wrocław
- **Discussant:** Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska, University of Warsaw

Panel 2: Attitudes and historical legacies
Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Valeriia Babaian**, Trinity College Dublin, *“Historical governance and contemporary authoritarian preferences in Eastern Europe”*
- **Vera Beloshitzkaya**, University of Salzburg, *“Mechanisms behind liberal democratic attitude formation: Czechia”*
- **Chair:** Filip Kostelka, EUI
- **Discussant:** Elias Dinas, EUI

11.00 – 11.15 **Coffee Break**
Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

11.15 – 12.45 **Panel 3: Representation, identity, and political engagement**
Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Daniel Kovarek**, European University Institute, *“When breaking the glass ceiling inspires female political engagement: Slovakia”*
- **Konstantin Bogatyrev**, LSE, *“Framing the fallen: soldier identity and political support in wartime Russia”*
- **Chair:** Alina Vranceanu, Autonomous University of Barcelona
- **Discussant:** Valentina Petrovic, University of Vienna

Panel 4: Material grievances and populist support

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Tomáš Dvořák**, Charles University, “*Geographies of discontent, populist voting and quality of life*”
- **Evelyne Brie**, Université de Montréal, “*Born into dispossession: inherited wealth and extreme voting in Germany*”
- **Chair**: Elias Dinas, EUI
- **Discussant**: Hanspeter Kriesi, University of Zürich

12:45 – 14:15

Lunch

Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

14.15 – 15:45

Panel 5: Affective and ideological polarization

Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Marta Kołczyńska**, Polish Academy of Sciences, “*How much polarisation do citizens want? Evidence from Poland*”
- **Maciej Sychowiec**, SWPS University, “*Elite misperceptions and mass affective polarisation: evidence from Poland*”
- **Chair**: Krisztina Szabó, Central European University
- **Discussant**: Kamil Marcinkiewicz, University of Wrocław

Panel 6: Party Politics and Electoral Reform in South-Eastern Europe

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Neven Vutev**, Sofia University, “*De-ideologisation: understanding the post left–right divide in Bulgarian politics*”
- **Nahla Mansour**, European University Institute, “*Number of votes and moderate/cross-ethnic voting: Bosnia and Herzegovina*”
- **Chair**: Valentina Petrovic, University of Vienna
- **Discussant**: Konstantin Bogatyrev, LSE

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

16:00 – 17:30

Panel 7: Voters' responses to democratic erosion 1

Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Marta Vukovic**, University of Vienna, “*When do voters accept democratic backsliding? A conjoint analysis*”
- **Yana Bochkareva**, European University Institute, “*When is it OK to ban elections? Demand-side democratic resilience*”
- **Chair**: Hanspeter Kriesi, University of Zürich
- **Discussant**: Milan Svoblik, Yale University

Panel 8: Social Media and Politics

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Catalina Nastasiu**, NUPSPA Romania, *“Ambient nostalgia in algorithmic environments: Romanian Facebook”*
- **Dumitru C. Vasile**, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, *“Digital democracies or echo chambers? Social media in CEE”*
- **Chair:** Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska, University of Warsaw
- **Discussant:** Daniel Kovarek, European University Institute

18:00-19:30

Roundtable: Democratic Erosion in Europe

Sala del Capitolo (Badia Fiesolana)

Speakers: Hanspeter Kriesi, Milan Svolik, and Natasha Wunsch

Chair: Filip Kostelka

20:30

Dinner in Florence city centre

Casa Toscana (Via Giovanni Da Verrazzano, 3/5 r, 50122)

Day 2

Friday 26 June

09:00 – 10:30

Panel 9: Voters' responses to democratic erosion 2

Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska**, University of Warsaw, *“Which constitutional rules do people value in CEE? A survey experiment”*
- **Nino Gomurashvili**, Tbilisi State University, *“Citizens' responses to democratic backsliding: Georgia and CEE”*
- **Chair:** Tomáš Dvořák, Charles University
- **Discussant:** Natasha Wunsch, University of Fribourg

Panel 10: Transnational politics

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Mara Birou**, Babeş-Bolyai University, *“Political behaviour beyond borders: Romanian migrants in Spain and France”*
- **Silvia-G. Porciuleanu**, European University Institute, *“The power of ‘the West’: evidence from political rhetoric in Europe”*
- **Chair:** Zeth Isaksson, EUI
- **Discussant:** Alina Vranceanu, Autonomous University of Barcelona

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

10:45 – 12:15

Panel 11: Environmental attitudes and voting behaviour

Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Ville Haapanen**, University of Tartu, *“How environmental views lead to non-green party choice”*
- **Iwo Łoś**, University of Warsaw, *“Class, eco-habitus and environmental political behaviour in CEE”*
- **Chair:** Daniel Kovarek, European University Institute
- **Discussant:** Andras Tetenyi, Corvinus University of Budapest

Panel 12: Democratic resilience: norms, education, and socialisation

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Natasha Wunsch**, University of Fribourg, *“Trading democracy? Citizen preferences over electoral programmes in Hungary”*
- **Viktar Siamionau**, Pennsylvania State University, *“Is education in humanities and social sciences a bulwark against democratic erosion?”*
- **Chair:** Milan Svolik, Yale University
- **Discussant:** Zeth Isaksson, EUI

12:15 – 13:45

Group picture and Lunch

Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

13:45 – 15:15

Panel 13: Corruption, clientelism, and electoral accountability

Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Krisztina Szabó**, Central European University, *“When corrupt co-partisans escape punishment: evidence from Hungary”*
- **Jovan Bliznakovski**, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, *“Varieties of clientelistic engagement: Western Balkans”*
- **Chair:** Andras Tetenyi, Corvinus University of Budapest
- **Discussant:** Gulczyński Michał, EUI

Panel 14: Far right and Eurosceptic voting

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Alina Vranceanu**, Autonomous University of Barcelona, *“Far-right party affect in Western and Eastern Europe”*
- **Valentina Petrovic**, University of Vienna, *“Voting for Eurosceptic parties and cultural consumption patterns”*
- **Chair:** Evelyne Brie, Université de Montréal
- **Discussant:** Filip Kostelka, EUI

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee Break

Lower Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

15:30 – 17:00

Panel 15: EU politics

Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Jakub Szabo**, Comenius University Bratislava, *“Citizens' commitment to democratic norms amid EU criticism”*
- **Noela Mahmutaj**, University of Tirana, *“Political (dis)trust and support for EU integration: Western Balkans”*
- **Chair:** Philipp Kerler, University of Zürich
- **Discussant:** Tomáš Dvořák, Charles University

Panel 16: Electoral systems, malapportionment, and representation

Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

- **Kamil Marcinkiewicz**, University of Wrocław, *“Proportionality of electoral system and satisfaction with democracy in CEE”*
- **Michal A. Pawlowski**, European University Institute, *“Malapportionment and electoral tourism in Polish parliamentary elections”*
- **Chair:** Natasha Wunsch, University of Fribourg
- **Discussant:** Marta Kołczyńska, Polish Academy of Sciences

17:15 – 18:30

Final words & apéritif

Upper Loggia (Badia Fiesolana)

Announcement of the winner of the Jacques Rupnik Award